THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Eve of the Enfranchisement of Women.

Parliament meets next week. The Boundary Commissioners have now finished their work, so there seems to be no reason why the Representation of the People Bill should not be proceeded with at once. We know from the Prime Minister's statement to the Labour Deputation that it is his intention to get it through quickly, and we confidently hope that in the course of the next few months we shall find ourselves entitled to be placed on the Parliamentary Register.

Women's Organisations and the Future.

The aim and possibilities of the National Union of Women Workers were so well set forth in Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon's Presidential Address at the Council, that we are glad to have the opportunity of printing it in full. We print at the same time a letter written by the Duchess of Marlborough on behalf of the Women's Municipal Party. All women's organisations are naturally considering how they can make themselves most useful in the new conditions. It will probably be found that there is more room than ever for the work of all. Certainly there can be no conflict between the work of Societies which exist to further definite objects and causes, and one which, like the N.U.W.W., has a general purpose—"The social, civil, moral, and religious welfare of the community." The former find their strength in concentration and vigorous propaganda; the latter will grow in usefulness in exact proportion to the number of diverse elements which it is able to draw in. It should afford a useful meeting-ground for people who seek the good of the community in different and even in opposite ways. Such an organisation cannot, in the nature of things, move fast itself, but it may give very useful help to those who *are* moving fast, and who hope to go far—*e.g.*, the Suffrage Societies.

Everything will probably depend on how far it is able to adapt itself to the democratic spirit of the day. No machinery which is not democratic can be much use at the present time. For this reason we are glad that the Council showed such unanimity in passing the urgency resolution for a committee to reform the Constitution. The future of the N.U.W.W. will depend partly on the work of this Committee, partly on the continued and growing life of its affiliated societies.

There cannot be too much looking ahead in women's organisations, and it is important to remember that consultation and propaganda are both necessary for the welfare of women and the community, that different machinery is necessary for these two things, and that probably no one organisation can be equally effective for both.

Our Own Future.

The particular organisation whose future chiefly concerns us will probably always be a propagandist rather than a consultative machine. The N.U.W.S.S. has not yet attained its object of gaining votes for women on the same terms as they are or may be granted to men, and will not have attained it even when the Representation of the People Bill has gone through. It will, of course, continue to work for it.

It is probable, however, that the moment is arriving when most Suffragists will want not only to do so, but to unite for other kindred objects, which are all part of the great purpose of obtaining equal opportunities for women. How we can best do this is a question for our own Council to decide. We hope that the moment is not far off when it will meet to do so. In the meantime, the more conferences and discussion that can take place among members, the more plans and suggestions that can be interchanged, the better it will be for our future work. Many of the Societies of the Union have already held conferences, some of which have been reported at length in THE COMMON CAUSE. We hope that we shall have plenty more such reports to publish, and we welcome correspondence on the subject.

Mrs. Fawcett and the National Council of Women.

Among the agreeable incidents at the National Council of Women was the enthusiastic reception given to Mrs. Fawcett when she first got up to speak. The gathering, which had up till then appeared somewhat subdued and passive, rose to its feet, and applauded vigorously. It was certainly the liveliest moment of the first day of the Council, and a very pleasant one for the ten delegates who represented the N.U.W.S.S.

The State Endowment of Motherhood.

Following up the two articles on this subject by Mrs. Stocks which we have already published, we hope to publish one next week by Miss Maude Royden. The question as to what is the best way to help the mothers and children of the country in the future is a controversial one, but no one will deny that it is vitally important and urgent. We shall be glad to have the opinions of our readers on the matter.

Other Forthcoming Articles.

We also hope to continue our series of articles on new professions for women, and to publish some interesting contributions from Miss Dora Mellone on social conditions in Ireland.

The Present and the Future of the National Union of Women Workers.

Presidential Address by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon at the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, October 3rd, 1917.

The merest consideration of the methods by which combined action is secured by bodies of men and women, will suffice to show that the usual method is to gather together individuals with a strong bias in one particular direction, and form a Society or Association of such individuals pledged to further the common aim. These Associations for particular purposes have multiplied in number very rapidly during the past few decades, and their existence has the tendency to split up Society in general into isolated bodies. The members of any one association meet frequently with one another, but come comparatively seldom into contact with members of other bodies. This process of specialisation, while it affords a means of intensive development for groups of individuals along certain well-defined directions, and is a necessity in the complexity of present-day conditions, tends to set up unnatural barriers in the midst of social communities, and may even lead to lack of sympathy and prejudice.

A fine counteracting influence against this tendency was evolved among Women's Associations when the National Union of Women Workers was created some twenty-two years ago by a few scattered local organisations of women. Its express purpose was to link together the many separate associations, and invite them to bring their special aims and difficulties before a wider body of women representative of them all, with a view to discussion and common action, if such were desired. The Union has consistently endeavoured to carry out this valuable function, but owing to the cumbrous size of the large body of representatives, it has been impracticable for them to meet together in full Council oftener than once a year, with rare exceptions. This was obviously too seldom to have enabled the responsible body or "Council," in virtue of its own discussions and decisions, to become a determining factor in the formation of women's standards and opinions.

On the other hand, the dominant idea of the Union, the combination of different kinds of Societies, was eagerly laid hold of in the Provinces, and new local Unions took origin as Branches of the National Union, with the same constitution and aims as the main body. The meetings of the Branch organisations could be much more frequent, and they also attracted a large membership of individual women. Hence, wherever they exist, they have been living factors in the development of a better understanding among Women's Societies, and a readiness to work together for a common purpose in the interest either of the local community or of the nation.

As an organisation, the National Union of Women Workers stands unique among women's societies; and by some expansion and readjustment of its methods, and a working arrangement for more frequent conferences, small and informal, both at the centre of affairs and in the branches, it would be able to supply a great need for women at the present moment in all sections of the community.

Some regard the Union as having been constructed mainly for deliberative and consultative purposes. But the first of the objects set forth for the Union is "To promote the social, civil, moral, and religious welfare of the community," and the second is, "To promote sympathy of thought and purpose among women." To promote any cause carries with it the necessity of motion, activity, work—certainly work after reasoned and careful deliberation, but nevertheless *work*.

There can be no question of the great fact that this Union has already established a splendid tradition of work, and again a *unique* tradition in so far as the work accomplished has been literally for a hundred and fifty and more different causes, covering almost all the spheres of work for which the affiliated Societies of the Union exist.

This work has been done by the Branches of the Union. Nor has there ever been to my knowledge any complaint of overlapping of the Branch work with the special work of some individual Society. The Societies that are sympathetic are only too glad to lend all possible aid, and if any Societies are little interested or unsympathetic, they are under our constitution free to stand aloof.

Take, for example, the activities and achievements in pre-war times of such branches as those in Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Bristol. These cities are little worlds in themselves, and you will find that in them, as in many smaller towns, one enterprise after another for the common good has been started and carried through by the united efforts of women using the machinery presented by our Branch and incorporating the goodwill and support of their individual Societies. In Hull, the Branch work in pre-war days was displayed in special sections of the Women and Children's Wards of the Hospitals, the Lodging-House for Women with its own freehold in the hands of the Branch, Infant Clinics, Children's Consultation Centres, Day Nurseries, Maternity Home, Girls' Clubs, and other beneficent agencies.

Again, take the Branch in Glasgow as a type of our usefulness during war-time in a great industrial centre. The Glasgow Union organised in the large industrial and munition works a system of canteens that was the admiration of the authorities, and assisted in the welfare work and in the preparation of hostels and housing for girls, in addition to taking a leading part in administering the Queen Mary Work for Women Fund, the voluntary side of the War Savings and Food Control Committees, War Work Associations, Depôts for comforts for the men, hospital supplies, and many other activities in which the voluntary co-operation of women has been an absolute necessity for the country during those years.

Many other Branches have rendered quite as signal services by the side of their local authorities, and have been the right hands of Mayors and Mayoresses in co-ordinating the work of women's societies for such national purposes as were required to be conducted on fairly uniform lines throughout the country. The Branches deserve all honour, but let them not forget that the strength of their position depends on the goodwill and co-operation of the individual Societies.

While the mobility and practical nature of this system of affiliated Societies has been amply demonstrated among the local Branches of the Union, it is perhaps not surprising that the central machinery of the Union has not proved so adaptable in relation to the central bodies of the affiliated Societies. Or, to express this important fact in another way, the Executives of the large women's organisations, which are affiliated together in this Union, have not turned towards the Council and Executive of this uniting body as an inevitable means of common action in the same natural way as local Executives have turned to our Branches.

This lack of cohesion at the core is a serious flaw in the efficiency of our Union, and its existence appears to me to call for a revision of certain features of our constitution. Another weakness is that the organised Labour movement among women has not affiliated itself officially with the Union, although locally many of its units are affiliated with Branches of the Union.

To-day there is urgently required an acknowledged means of inter-communication between all Women's Societies, a machinery that all may use. A strong bond of attachment, neutral and impartial in character, ought to be forged, so that the weaker elements in organised womanhood may be helped forward by the stronger, and women who are in the front van of progress may be kept closely and continually in touch with the women who by circumstance and temperament lag behind the general standards of the day.

Above all, it is essential that women who have leisure to give voluntary service may meet on common ground women whose time is their life's sustenance, and may learn to understand the vital needs and outlook of the worker and the dangers of indiscriminate voluntary service. There is also the no less dangerous menace caused by the rendering of any services at less than a recognised payment based upon the period and expense of the necessary training of the worker, the cost of living, and the need for a "saving" margin to the worker.

The years we are passing through prove conclusively that the country has need of both the voluntary worker and the paid worker. There is a part for both in the economic and administrative work of the nation, and it is of the highest importance that women of both types should take frequent counsel together as women citizens of equal standing in the ranks of a great nation.

Can this Union supply a machinery that will be made welcome by all sections of the community and used by all to interpret their views and their needs to one another?

I believe that the Union can do this, and that the impelling force of the nation's need will hasten our efforts.

The great public Departments are preparing for the complex

work of *demobilisation* that will come after the war. The Ministry of Labour has established about 100 Advisory Committees of employers and workpeople in leading places to act along with the Employment Exchanges, and to be in readiness to deal with the special period of demobilisation. We all know how useful voluntary effort has been in the past in connection with the shifting of girls and women in numbers from place to place, and caring for their physical and moral welfare.

Our Branches have taken an active part in this work, and they might now endeavour to get into touch with these Advisory Committees, or with the Employment Exchanges where no Committees have been formed, and be preparing definite schemes of assistance wherever these are called for.

Owing to the vast number of women previously of no occupation who have entered the field of paid employments since war began, there may be great congestion in some services and occupations after the war, and instability in the rates of payment.

As demobilisation proceeds, the proportion of the numbers of available men and women for these civil occupations will constantly vary, and each locality will have throughout a protracted period its own set of circumstances to consider, and particular cases requiring assistance. Whatever may be the national and official regulations, there will be a distinct need for local voluntary committees of women, such as the Branches and Affiliated Societies of our Union could form, and the Branches will have to make sure that such committees are thoroughly representative of the workers' interests.

One of the most difficult questions during the years of reconstruction will be the rightful place and payment for women alongside men in labour and industry, commerce and the professions. While it is to be hoped that the Union will everywhere do its part to help in securing that place, we ought to make a point of avoiding any appearance of sex antagonism or conflict. Especially in these years when new standards of women's citizenship will be in course of formation, it is of the utmost importance that we should use all our reserve of womanly tact and discretion in entering upon the new and broader fields now open to us.

A national work in which all ranks and grades of society have shown active participation during the year is that of the Care of Mothers and Children.

It appears to me that our Union might, through its Branches and Affiliated Societies, do valuable propagandist and constructive work in this connection. . . . Our help has also been invited in connection with the Campaign against Venereal Diseases, and our Branches would be well advised to approach the Local Health Authorities to find out how help could be most usefully rendered.

As the largest organised body of women in the country, with over 2,500,000 members of our affiliated Societies and Branches, another field of work exerts a call upon our service. If the Representation of the People Bill becomes law, and the clauses in it with reference to the women's vote remain as they now are, nearly 6,000,000 women will be given the Parliamentary Franchise. Many of these women voters of the future belong to our own Societies, and will look to us to give them accurate information as to the conditions and methods of voting. But we must not limit such work to our own members. It is the third of the chief objects of the Union to focus and redistribute information likely to be of service to women—that is, to all women in the country. That being so, I trust the Council will regard it as the duty and function of the Union at this critical moment to organise a very thorough and complete propaganda on the responsibility of the women's vote, and to be in a position to supply lecturers on the subject to our Branches, our affiliated Societies, and any others. The Union, also, as a strictly non-party organisation, may endeavour to spread information on important measures before Parliament in a wholly impartial way, with the aim simply of stimulating the minds of women throughout the country to be considering the chief subjects before Parliament, and be forming their own opinions upon them.

A very important aspect is the training of the oncoming generation. We shall have to agitate to secure that girls should be better prepared both by their home training and by their education in the schools to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a definite and purposeful way.

From the moment that women are made participators in government by the granting to them of the Parliamentary Franchise, they will become responsible to the whole nation for their part in the making and administration of the Laws.

. . . . .

We can help our country greatly. Let us go bravely forward to follow up the notable advances in social legislation that are being made. Let us make of this Union a great meeting-ground and pivot of strength in our midst for the interchange of women's thought and opinion, and the co-ordination and expansion of women's work. God willing, hope will spring afresh in our land after the war, and we older women may yet have the joy of seeing the daughters of the nation enter by the hundred and thousand into this Union, to mould it anew with the bold chisel of youth, to widen its portals, and render it a truly democratic and representative body of women citizens, aspiring to serve their country with knowledge, forethought, and judgment.

Resolutions at the Council.

Reform of the Constitution.

The first efforts of the Council were directed to the reform of the constitution of the N.U.W.W. It was resolved :—

"That in view of the probable extension of the Union's work as a result of the enfranchisement of women, a Committee be formed to consider the constitution of the N.U.W.W. and to report to the next meeting of Council. This Committee shall consist of the three honorary office-bearers of the Union, six members nominated and elected by the Executive Committee, six members nominated and elected by the Branches, and six members nominated and elected by the Affiliated Societies, the election to be by postal vote."

"Also that (3) :—The Affiliated Societies shall elect twelve members who shall represent them on the Executive Committee. Such representatives shall serve for one year. No proxies shall be allowed."

It was further resolved that the Sectional Committees, which are such an important feature of the Union, should be somewhat reorganised, and that :—

The Societies or Branches within the Sectional Committee agreeing to join in public action shall be free to do so provided that such action is taken only in their own names and not in the name of the N.U.W.W. or of the Sectional Committee as a whole. A Sectional Committee may take any public action if it has obtained the consent of the Executive Committee, or in the case of urgency, of the President."

Among resolutions on subjects of general interest passed by the Council were the following :—

Special Work on the Women's Vote.

"That during the forthcoming year the N.U.W.W. shall endeavour :—

(*a*) To bring before the women of the country the new powers and responsibilities granted by the extension of the franchise to women under the Representation of the People Bill.

(*b*) To distribute information as to the qualifications for the women's Parliamentary vote; to appeal to women voters to use their vote for national purposes, and to bring prominently before them legislative measures of the first rank of importance in national reforms.

(*c*) To appeal to all women, both voters and non-voters, to relax in no way their efforts to help their country during these years of great danger until the security of a lasting peace has been attained.

(*d*) To make widely known the industrial and economic position of women, as modified by, and dependent upon the war conditions; and to prepare women for careful consideration of the national, imperial, and international issues involved in the problems of reconstruction that will arise after the war."

Ministry of Health.

"That the National Council of Women urges the Government :—

(*a*) To establish a Ministry of Health.

(*b*) To include women in such Ministry."

Ministry of Health (Scotland).

"That a separate Ministry of Health be established for Scotland with the Secretary for Scotland or some other member of the Government as Scottish Minister of Health directly responsible to Parliament, and that women be included in such Ministry."

Laws *re* Solicitation.

"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland affirms its unshaken belief in an equal moral standard for men and women. Since present laws relating to solicitation and riotous conduct in the streets are complicated, unjust, and ineffective in practice, the National Council of Women urges that a law on an equal basis for men and women with regard to administration, evidence, and penalties should be substituted to deal with molestation or annoyance by any persons in the streets."

Reformative Agencies.

"Since the duty of the State towards young people who are drifting into criminal courses is to restore and reform them, and since experience shows that moral reformation is more likely to be brought about by voluntary methods than by compulsion, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to improve and co-ordinate existing agencies official and voluntary, and with this in view calls for an authoritative enquiry as to :—

(*a*) How far the present methods of prisons, courts, and police help or hinder such reformation.

(*b*) How the laws and their administration can be improved.
(*c*) Whether the co-operation of voluntary educational and reformative agencies can be more largely utilised."

Protection of Child Life.

(1) "That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to amend the Notification of Births Act, 1907, and the Children Act, 1908, so as to ensure :—
(*a*) That if an infant under the age of one month be removed, the mother or occupier of the house or room in which the infant is born shall notify the Local Authority, before the removal of the infant, and give the name and address of the person to whose house the infant has been transferred.
(*b*) That in the case of removal from one Local Authority to another, the removal shall be notified to the new Local Authority.
(*c*) That the Local Authority where the infant is removed shall notify the Infant Life Inspection Authority on the infant's arrival.
(*d*) That the Infant Life Inspection Visitor shall, on receipt of the notification of the infant's arrival, visit it within forty-eight hours.
(2) "That the National Council of Women draw the attention of the Government to the great increase in the number of advertisements containing offers to adopt children, and to the necessity, therefore of providing some method of safeguarding the interests of such adopted children.
(3) "That the National Council of Women is of opinion that the time has come when some fundamental changes in the law are urgently needed with the object of increasing the responsibility of the fathers of illegitimate children."

Urgency Resolution.

"The National Council of Women protests against any difference being made between men and women of equal qualifications in the framing of a scale of salaries for teachers in elementary and secondary schools."

Urgency Resolution.

"That in view of the acknowledged responsibility of the Government of India to make provision for female education in India, this Council respectfully urges the Secretary of State to add women to the commission lately appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Michael Sadler to enquire into the educational policy of the University of Calcutta."

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland now consists of the following members :—

President—Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.
Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. Elliot-Nish.
Hon. Editor—Miss E. M. Eaton.

Lady Arnott, Miss Rosa M. Barrett, Mrs. Allan H. Bright, Mrs. George Cadbury, The Lady Emmott, Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. James Gow, Mrs. Edwin Gray, Mrs. H. B. Irving, Miss Janes, Mrs. Kempthorne, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, The Hon. Lily Montagu, The Lady Laura Ridding, Lady Salvesen, Miss Rosamond Smith, Miss H. M. White, LL.D., The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Blackie, Miss Emily Buchanan, Mrs. Carden, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Forbes of Rothiemay, Miss Agnes Garrett, Mrs. Arnold Glover, The Hon. Mrs. Handford, Miss E. C. Harvey, Miss Olga Hertz, Miss Mary E. Phillips, Mrs. Prothero, Mrs. Walter Runciman, Miss A. Scott, The Countess of Selborne, Miss Elizabeth Sturge, Miss Elsie M. Zimmern, and of 33 representatives of branches.

To these will be added the twelve representatives of the Affiliated Societies who are being elected by postal vote.

OVERWORKED WOMEN.

Madam,—The facts disclosed by "M. L. G." in her article in the current number of *The Englishwoman* on the above subject, speak for themselves. They leave a mere man marvelling at the shortsighted policy, the well-nigh criminal recklessness and folly of a man-made and to a large extent man-manned Government. What impression may they be expected to produce upon thoughtful women at a time when their opinion is ceasing to be a negligible quantity in the eyes of politicians?

May I be allowed to supplement "M. L. G.'s" indictment by a brief reference to two matters which, it is to be feared, aggravate the evils complained of? I refer to the unhygienic conditions prevailing in many factories, workshops, and homes, and to the unsuitable and ill-balanced nature of so much of the diet. For the former, as Miss Cecile Matheson has shown,* the one-sided character of our domestic and hygienic teaching is largely responsible, with the result that "what the girls learn from their teachers they unlearn from their brothers and their sweethearts." The remedy for the latter is to be found in practical cookery instruction, especially for those in charge of the catering of hostels, landladies, and the workers themselves. Many are often quite unable to adjust their housekeeping to existing difficult conditions, with disastrous consequences to health. In two large munition areas the aid of our staff, who work on "Pudding Lady" lines, was requisitioned last winter. It is gratifying to be able to record that a substantial improvement was effected, though, as the Housing Superintendent responsible for one campaign remarked, "The landladies and girls still need a lot of teaching!" We shall be happy to be of service to any of your readers engaged in similar work.—Yours, &c.,

Chas. E. Hecht,
Hon. Secretary National Food Reform Association.
14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1. October 8th, 1917.

* "Relation of School and Home" in "Rearing an Imperial Race," p. 90, &c.

Sidelights on Irish Suffrage.

(*From Our Irish Correspondent.*)

The Representation of the People Bill as it stands at present applies to Ireland. If the interest taken in the Bill in this country has been less than that felt in England, the reason is not far to seek. With the constitution of the country in the melting-pot, there might be some excuse for temporary neglect of the Suffrage issue. But the columns of The Common Cause during the present summer have borne witness to the efforts of Irish Suffragists to keep the question before the public, distracted by party feuds and political upheavals.

How do Irish Suffragists stand now? It is the decisive moment, for the possibility of immediate enfranchisement depends on the success of the Bill. We are not told what precisely is or is not included in the deliberations of the Irish Convention, but it is scarcely likely that it will recommend the establishment of a register different from that in England. If, therefore, the Representation of the People Bill becomes law this autumn, and applies to Ireland, the enfranchisement of Irishwomen is reasonably safe, or as safe as anything can be in the present condition of Irish politics! It is difficult to imagine that any political party will really attempt to cut Ireland out of the Bill. The "injustice to Ireland" would be too glaring, and no politician wants to increase the already lengthy list of Irish grievances against England. Oh, these Irish grievances, how weary many of us Suffragists are of them, for few of the things that really matter are included in the list. Much of the emergency legislation passed since the war is unfair to this country, either by what it does, or more often by what it fails to do. Matters of grave importance to the very existence of the nation seem to be of little moment in the eyes of our legislators. Take the case of child-welfare, serious enough in a country with a decreasing birth-rate and a high figure of infant mortality. Life in a Dublin slum is more dangerous to an infant than life in a front-line trench to a soldier, and the death-rate is rising as winter approaches, until it looks as if the total of one child in every six dying under the age of one year would be increased as food prices continue to mount. Listen to a comment of a neighbour, as the tiny coffin is carried down the tenement-house stair: "Fifteen children, miss, she had, and buried them all but three. God help her. But wasn't it just as well, for how would she have reared them, with himself always sick, and her having to go out charing?" There have been massacres of the innocents since the days of Herod, and though the ancient laws of Ireland exacted heavy penalties from those who allowed "an innocent child to die without lifting hand to save," it is most often the voice, not the hand, which is lifted in these days, and amidst all the talk little is done. The Child Welfare Act applies to Ireland, but is not compulsory, and the financial arrangements are inadequate.

Then there is the question of Poor Law reform. Listen to another tale, like the first, a transcript from life. "Yes, miss, Susie's strong now, and she was dying on her feet when they took her into the Home there. No, I couldn't give her more nor a sup of tay, and hardly any milk to give it an appearance. The doctor said to give her soup and porridge, that nothing ailed her, only hunger; but where would I get the likes of that, for there's nothing for me from the Union, the gentlemen give nothing to widows that have only one child, miss. And I'm afraid it's sick again Susie will be, for it's not much I can earn at the sewing, and sorra a thing else ever I learnt, and I can't learn now."

Unemployment and under-payment are amongst the gravest evils in the urban centres. An efficient educational system would produce skilled workers instead of the untrained casual, who drifts from one blind-alley occupation to another, ending in the relief workroom. The want of adequate provision for technical training, the under-feeding, and the bad housing, render efficient work impossible, and drag the piece-work wages down to a figure which would arouse horror in an English or Scottish centre. Relief measures are merely palliatives, no substitute for a fundamental reform. Through

WOMEN AS JUSTICES

BY

J. THEODORE DODD, M.A., J.P., Oxford.

Price 3d.

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY: 19, Tothill St., Westminster, S.W.1.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

the courtesy of the Editor of The Common Cause, I hope to give its readers some idea of the real nature of the Irish social problem, a matter which has a bearing on some hotly debated political issues.

Dora Mellone.

Oxford Women Students' Suffrage Canteen.

French soldiers fighting side by side with our men have won a place in our affections, and we have incurred a debt of gratitude of which we are keenly conscious. Who would not be stirred by their bravery and fortitude? France, with whole districts devastated, villages to rebuild, and waste-land to bring back to cultivation, has hitherto been unable to provide her soldiers with comforts that do something to make life bearable to the English "Tommy." The *poilu* returning on leave from the Front, often remains unhoused, unfed, unsheltered, sitting by the roadside, sleeping in wayside stables. Little provision is made for him in the shape of huts, and in many districts there are none.

Last spring a personal appeal for a canteen in one of these districts in the War Zone came to the O.W.S.S.W.S., who immediately sent out circulars, and began collecting funds. Acting with the support and at the invitation of the French authorities, they have now been enabled to open a canteen at Donnans, between Epernay and Chalons, with sleeping accommodation for 500 men, bath-rooms, a recreation-room, and a foyer where refreshments can be obtained. "The Canteen looks charming," writes the administrator, Miss Wilson, "with its red-and-white check curtains, its whitewashed walls, and white tables, and an old French pottery service (picked up cheaply in the village) which ornaments a tall dresser, and is surmounted by the Allies' flags." "I hope soon people will get used to it," she adds, "and then we shall be left in peace; the military authorities spend most of their time wandering round and making suggestions, and trying to be helpful"; and she tells of the old commandant, who was enormously interested, and came round himself to arrange the china and the flags. French authorities now realise the difference made by Canteens to the *morale* of the men, and are encouraging their installation, and making generous provision of buildings.

Once installed, these canteens are, or can be, self-supporting. Roast beef, hard-boiled eggs, bread, soup, coffee, chocolate, beer, ham, cheese are the fare and also the indispensable "pot au feu." Ten centimes is the usual charge for everything except a large meal. But there remains the need for extension of the work and for extra equipment in things the men want very much. The *poilu*, after all, is not very unlike the "Tommy," and at Donnans he is asking clamourously for a cinema, which would have the excellent effect of giving him a holiday sensation and keeping his spirits up. Men arrive in five hundreds, mostly by night trains. But for the canteen they would have nowhere to rest and to get hot food. But several days' rest becomes wearisome and depressing without more distraction even than the efforts of our handful of workers at entertaining can supply. Funds are also needed for the maintenance of workers. Enterprise of this type is a new thing in France, and French women are asking for help in the initial establishment and organisation, while showing themselves ready to assist in every way in their power. Will readers of The Common Cause respond to this appeal? £65 pays the expenses of a worker for six months; £10 pays the expenses of a worker for one month approximately; £40 could purchase a cinema.

Contributions should be sent to Miss Sarson, the Treasurer, O.W.S.S.W.S. Canteen Fund, South Lodge, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells; information from Miss Deneke, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Literature Department (N.U.W.S.S.).

Two leaflets which should prove exceptionally valuable at this time have been published, and can be obtained from the Literature Department of the N.U., 14, Great Smith Street, at the reduced price of 100 for 7s. 6d. (Postage on 100, 4d.)

"Qualifications of Women Voters" (price 1d.) deals with the Municipal as well as the Parliamentary Franchise, and shows, in tabular form, the differences between the qualifications of men and women, both formerly and as under the new Reform Bill.

"How Women Use the Vote" (price 1d.) gives a list of the countries where women are already enfranchised, and how they have used their political responsibilities in the interest of mother and child, of education, of moral reform, and watched the interests of industrial and professional women. In the final summary under the title "Why Women should Vote," it gives some telling pronouncements of leading statesmen in the various countries where women have already gained their political freedom.

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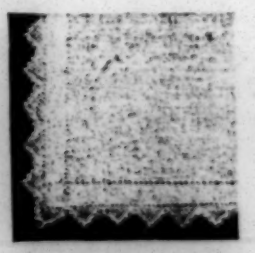

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Welfare Work.

The extremely hostile attitude to welfare work for women which has shown itself among some sections of the workers is not unnaturally a source of surprise and bewilderment to the ordinary sensible person who had regarded welfare work as a hopeful movement towards better conditions. Broadly speaking, the function of a welfare worker is to take charge, on behalf of the management of a factory, of the girl and women workers. The works manager is a man with probably and almost necessarily limited views as to the best methods of handling large numbers of young women, either from the point of view of health or that of efficiency. If he is old-fashioned and conservative, he muddles along as best he can, getting a moderate output at a high cost, working his girls for long hours, making little or no provision for meals, rest, breaks, recreation; kept up to the minimum of decency and sanitation demanded by the law through the untiring efforts of His Majesty's Factory Inspectors, and impervious to such of their suggestions as go beyond the legal minimum.

If, on the other hand, he is progressive, he realises that just because he is a man he needs the services of trained women to manage his staff of women and girls. The ideal chief wefare worker would, among other things, advise as to the total number of hours and the number of consecutive hours without a break which can be most advantageously worked by women. She would arrange for the provision of meals, rest-rooms, first-aid and ambulance rooms, very likely for recreation outdoors and in, possibly for educational facilities for the younger girls. She would exercise a measure of supervision and probably be responsible, wholly or in part, for engaging and dismissing the employees. She would be expected to advise upon many minor but important points which concern health and efficiency, for instance, the height of tables or stools, the provision of seats, and the opportunities for using them.

All this, from the point of view of the employer, means greater output; from that of the girls, fitter conditions, and not improbably (as a result of greater output) better wages; from that of the State, healthier and more efficient citizens. Why then is there such widespread dislike to welfare work?

Anyone who has carefully watched the development of this antagonism cannot but be aware that a real and very important part of it is organised by that section of teachers which is determined to attack and as far as possible to prevent any and every scheme which helps to improve the relations between employers and employed. To these the employer is the enemy, and if welfare work is profitable to him, it must necessarily be injurious to the employee. If the girls in a factory are well paid, healthy, prosperous, and contented, it is less easy to enlist their support in the class-war which these thinkers believe inevitable as a prelude to genuine improvement in social conditions.

But apart from these fundamental objections, there are many others. There is a widespread feeling that the welfare inspector or superviser should be paid by the State, and should not be the servant of the employer. Here possibly there is some confusion of thought. Inspection and the enforcement of a minimum, as well as the encouragement of something beyond that minimum, and suggestions for betterment are all admirably and necessarily performed by the Government inspectors. But welfare work, as outlined above, is as much the business of the employer, and as much to his interest as is the work of his machinery experts or his works chemist. This the readers of Miss Tartell's suggestive (if somewhat optimistic) book on "New Ideals of Business" can easily realise, as it has, of course, been realised by many enlightened and intelligent employers here in England. The conception of the necessary antagonism between employers and employed, which, alas! has only too much foundation in some districts and some factories, is to a great extent, though not entirely, at the root of this doctrine.

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Apart from these theoretical objections, there have been many practical difficulties. The very large recent increase in women's labour, and the somewhat spasmodic introduction of welfare work, has no doubt led to the appointment of many inexperienced and some wholly unsuitable persons. There is constant friction due to ignorance on the part of the supervisor of workers' customs, traditions, ideals, habits of mind, and social surroundings. There are many complaints of the "patronising" tone adopted by the welfare workers, and of their tendency to treat independent young women employed in a factory as the old-fashioned English mistress treated her domestics. The English workgirl has a strong and healthy horror of being done good to, a great dislike to what she calls interference, and a remarkable power of showing her resentment to any such tendencies. She has a strong feeling, often quite unrecognised by herself, of loyalty to her fellows, and she is perfectly ready to rebel against anyone who attempts to correct or restrain any of her colleagues. She has been very hard worked lately, and much inspected, and the well-meaning but not always tactful questionaire of the ardent and inexperienced welfare worker has often proved the very last straw.

Nevertheless, it is difficult not to believe in a future for welfare work, possibly under a less sanctimonious name. Those who believe in the movement see in it something of the modern spirit which regards industry not merely from the material standpoint, but from that of the well-being of the whole community. We have to convince the backward employer that good industrial conditions are not only necessary to the State as a whole, but probably, almost certainly, profitable themselves, and that the co-operation of a properly trained and educated woman supervisor, who understands the traditions and views of the employees, is an essential element in the wise handling of numbers of girls and young women.

L. F.

Madame Juliette Adam.*

For the most part, we are doomed to read the biography of those we admire or are interested in after death has deprived the world of their living influence and set his irrevocable seal upon the tale of their adventures. Part of the charm of the delightful volume in which Miss Winifred Stephens has depicted for us the influential and entertaining personality of "*la grande française*," with an account of her labours, her enterprises, and her successes, lies in the fact that Juliette Adam is not dead, that she is still among us, and sharing, as she has always shared to the full, in the national life of France.

Miss Stephens has had the unusual experience of writing her biography in intimate collaboration with the subject of it. It speaks volumes for the literary flair of the two friends that the work so written and so criticised should present what appears on the face of it to be a fresh and unbiassed impression of a most vivid and entertaining personality, avoiding alike the heaviness of the ordinary biography, and the boring egotism of autobiography.

Madame Adam has lived through momentous years in the history of France, and has left her mark upon them. Now that she is eighty years old, she beholds in the unflinching faith and the heroic endurance of the defenders of her country the true sequel to "*L'Armée Terrible*," which stamped its ineffaceable agonies upon her young womanhood.

All pessimists should read this volume, full of matter interesting at the moment, and learn how a beautiful young woman in the far-away days before John Stuart Mill gave his considered opinion to the world, succeeded in finding a publisher for her first book—and incidentally in finding fame: a first book in which she boldly tilted against a renowned and popular philosopher for the cause of women's freedom.

Her first essay in print, however, was concerned with crinolines. Among weekly articles in the *Siècle* by Alphonse Karr in 1855, called "*Bourdonnements*," appeared one in which the writer, after much ridicule of the absurdity of the crinoline fashion, declared there was "not a single young and pretty woman in France with sufficient independence of mind not to wear it." Julliette took up the challenge:—

"Yes, sir," she began, "there is a pretty woman of twenty who does not wear the crinoline, who has never worn it; there is one in France, in the provinces, and that one is I, Juliette."

The anonymous letter duly appeared in the pages of the *Siècle*, to the huge delight of its author, who thus, in her "Souvenirs," relates the incident:—

"We unfold the paper. . . . Yes, the whole of my letter is there. I read it. Pauline reads it. Not a word has been changed. I burst into tears. Pauline weeps, too. Baby Alice, playing on the carpet, when she sees us crying, begins to howl. Her godmother, Pauline, soothes and consoles her. I think of my grandmother . . . and I cry, 'Grandmother, I shall be a writer.'"

Madame Adam through her long life has ever been an ardent feminist. When the weighty Prudhon brought out, in 1858, his masterpiece in three volumes, entitled "*La Justice dans la Révolution et dans l'Eglise*, in which he thought fit to attack women in general—declaring that they must either fill the *rôle* of a housekeeper or a *courtisan*—and George Sand and Madame d'Agoult in particular, Juliette of twenty-two, without experience and without money, arose as David with his sling and stone to attack the giant:—

"Men who, like M. Prudhon," writes this young woman, "desire to restore the patriarchate by imprisoning women in the family . . . are blind to all that is going on around them, and misjudge the collective life which is daily developing new needs, engendering new forces, and giving rise to social institutions responding to these needs and organising these forces."

Replying in November, 1916, to an enquiry as to whether she had in any way modified her early feminist principles, Madame Adam writes:—"No, I am no less a feminist than in the beginning. I have merely proved as Editor for twenty years of an important Review"—(*La Nouvelle Revue*)—"that a woman may be something besides a housekeeper and a *courtisan*."

The whole history of "her first book" must be read in the delightful pages of Miss Stephen's biography. Seldom, perhaps never, has the candid literary avowal of feminist opinion so directly paved the way for a distinguished career.

It was prophesied for her by her father from the moment that he had read the little volume, the secret of which was not confided to him until it was placed in his hand:—

"What if it is bad?" he began.

"But if it's good?" interposed Juliette.

"Ah, at your age, even if you have half a success, you are distinguished for life."

After dinner, finding her very agitated, he sent her to bed. "Va te coucher, Basile," he said. "I will read your book to-night, and tell you what I think of it in the morning."

At three o'clock in the morning he came into his daughter's room and awakened her with the words, "It is good; it is good."

The history of Madame Adam's somewhat varying opinions, and the development of her psychology, is perhaps the most attractive side of the study presented in the present biography. Brought up in a very welter of conflicting views—a bone of contention to her relatives, who, while they loved her, quarrelled over her incessantly—she was early inured to the belief that the opinions of mankind are far from being immutable. In her later years, "*la grande Desabusée*," as Gambetta called her, has taken refuge in the faith of her ancestors—the faith in which she was baptised and instructed in childhood, but under her father's influence abandoned at the age of ten years. Her early friend, Georges Sand, had prophesied that the time would come when her young friend Juliette's pantheism would give place to a more spiritual faith.

"Il y a en votre âme," she writes, "un grand vide de spiritualité dont vous ne vous aperçevez pas à cette heure, parce que vous avez la vie la plus pleine que se puisse imaginer, mais un beau jour vous sentirez l'insufficence que vous apporte votre croyance en l'incroyance."

Madame Sand has proved herself a true prophet.

M. Lowndes.

* "Madame Adam" (Juliette Lamber), La Grande Française. By Winifred Stephens.' (Chapman & Hall, 10s. 6d.)

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT IN FRANCE.

Who will help us to provide a hut for women workers who are going out to France?

Money for our Hut Fund is coming in very slowly, but if it is to be ready by the winter, it must be started at once.

So please send your donation TO-DAY.

We still need £645 to complete the Fund.

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Further donations should be sent to The Editor, The Common Cause, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

The Education of Indian Women.

The following correspondence has taken place between Mrs. Fawcett and the Secretary of State for India:—

2, Gower Street, W.C. 1.
October 2nd, 1917.

Dear Sir,—I venture to write to you on the subject of women's education in India, for the purpose of begging you to add at least two women to the Commission lately appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. Sadler, to enquire into the conditions of University Education in India.

It is generally admitted that there is a great and crying need for facilities for the education of the girls and women of India: the importance of providing for girls' education has been repeatedly recognised by the Government of India. As long ago as 1854 a despatch of the East India Company spoke of the great importance of girls' education and the moral obligation of the rulers of India to provide for it. But little progress has been made. Several native States are now in a more advanced position in this respect than is British India.

I am aware that Dr. M. Sadler's Commission is to deal with University Education only; but all experience shows how much primary and secondary education benefit from a sound and vigorous system of University Education; the supply of teachers, for instance, being to a very large extent dependent upon it.

I am aware that there are considerable difficulties and dangers surrounding the subject owing to the social habits and point of view of the Indian peoples. But there are also difficulties and dangers inherent in doing nothing and allowing an almost unbridgeable chasm to be opened between the intellectual and moral status of the two sexes.

It has been the glory of British rule in India that it has encouraged education among Indian men. The present moment offers a golden opportunity for doing more than has ever been done before to encourage education among Indian women, based on lines likely to be acceptable to the Indians themselves.—I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

M. G. Fawcett.

The Rt. Hon. Edwin Montagu, M.P.,
India Office, S.W. 1.

Whitehall, S.W. 1. October 5th, 1917.

Dear Madam,—I have received your letter of the 2nd instant, suggesting that two women should be added to the Educational Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sadler that has recently been appointed.

I fear that in any case it is too late, for the Commission has started for India, to add to its members, but I would point out to you that the scope of the Commission is not to enquire into University Education in India generally, but to enquire into the special circumstances of Calcutta University. Until, at any rate, it has concluded its work on this matter, I do not think it would be an appropriate body for dealing with any of the wider questions referred to in your last letter, nor would the time at the Commission's disposal enable them to do so.

I fully recognise the importance of developing female education in India, and I shall not lose sight of this most important factor in Indian development. At the appropriate time the Government of India will, I am sure, wish to avail itself of the assistance of women in this matter.

Our only difference is as to time and manner, and I think this is due to a slight misunderstanding, which I have corrected, as to the scope of Dr. Sadler's enquiries.

I am sending your letter and my answer to it privately to the Viceroy.—Yours very truly,

Edwin Montagu.

Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D.

IN MEMORIAM.

Sir George Radford, M.P.

Sir George Heynes Radford, Liberal M.P. for East Islington, who died on October 5th, was a strong supporter of Women's Suffrage. In his election address in 1906, he said that he was in favour of "the reform of the Parliamentary franchise and of Registration laws, so that every man may have a vote, and no man more than one, and that women may vote on the same terms as men." In March, 1912, he wrote that he was prepared to vote for any amendment to the Reform Bill then before Parliament which would enfranchise women, either in large numbers or in small.

Correspondence.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS AND THE ORGANISATION OF WOMEN.

Madam,—The letter signed A.M.M. on Women Citizen's Associations in our letter of October 5th, accentuates the need for the co-ordination and education of women voters under one Central Organisation.

Such a recommendation is, no doubt, dictated by the desire to obtain a definite policy and a constructive programme to which the majority of women voters would be able to subscribe with regard to certain measures more practically affecting women and children. Such an organisation with a definite policy and a constructive programme already exists in the Women's Municipal Party, which was founded in 1913, to co-ordinate women municipal voters and to secure the election of women candidates. So far, the Women's Municipal Party's activities have been limited to London, but judging from the progress made by the Party during the short period of its existence, there is every reason to anticipate its development throughout the country.

The Women's Municipal Party is the first woman's organisation which has been formed with the object of grouping women into a Party so as to obtain reforms by the power of representation and the use of the vote, hitherto only municipal.

There is no doubt that the organisation of women voters on a more comprehensive scale will become necessary with the Parliamentary franchise—but it is vital to insure that the co-ordinating society shall be representative of the interests of all women—more especially the woman worker and the mother.

At the Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, which was held on October 3rd, 4th and 5th, an effort was set on foot to create such a co-ordinating society by using the existing machinery of the National Union of Women Workers as a nucleus and directing power. The representative nature of that Council, therefore, becomes a question of primary importance, and it is difficult to imagine the Council as at present constituted representing the views or interests of the great majority of women voters—that is the working woman.

One speech alone, as unfortunate in expression as in subject matter, suggesting the possible capture of the working woman's vote so that she should no longer remain inarticulate, ignored the existence of societies such as the Women's Co-operative Guild (which has refused to become affiliated with the National Union of Women Workers) and the Women's Trades Union League, and accentuated the feeling of patronage so justly resented by the independent wage earner.

Questions of industry and reconstruction were conspicuous by their absence, and the resolution dealing with the Ministry of Public Health was shorn of all practical suggestions and did not, as eventually passed, include a recommendation for a separate department to deal with Maternity and Child Welfare so forcibly pressed for by the Women's Co-Operative Guild.

The impossibility of discussing a constructive measure in the space of three minutes (the time allowed to each speaker) reduced the most effective exponent to discomfiture and created a lamentable impression of ignorance in many cases not warranted by fact.

If the National Union of Women Workers is to represent the views of enfranchised womanhood, it would be advisable to reconsider its own constitution which at present allots three short days annually for the passing of measures of national importance.

We are all agreed that a definite programme should co-ordinate and represent the interests of women and children as additional to those of what in the past has been falsely named the community. But whether the National Union of Women Workers has the best machinery, or can be considered representative of the interests of the majority of women voters, is not yet clearly proved, nor did the last session of the Council tend to that conclusion.

We trust that the Committee appointed to deal with the position of affiliated societies and their representation on the Council will co-ordinate and encourage the work of these many voluntary organisations by the appointment of definite areas for work, rather than supersede them by the formation of still other agencies requiring the expenditure of more time and money, and we hope that the local effort already established, such, for instance, as the Citizen's Associations formed by the Women's Municipal Party and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies will not be impeded from continuing the educational work undertaken with so much success amongst working women.

Consuelo Marlborough.

Reviews.

Senlis. By Cicely Hamilton. (Messrs. Collins Sons & Co., 3s. 6d. net.)

There is no more than a hint in this attractive little book of its author's war activities; one might read it all through without realising that it was in the course of strenuous work for the Scottish Women's Hospitals that Miss Cicely Hamilton became acquainted with Senlis. It is as though she had drifted into the little town and found it so attractive that she stayed to write its history.

The sadness of its last three years (emphasised by photographs showing the systematic destruction wrought by the Germans) contrasts pitifully with its earlier records. "*La jolie petite ville de Senlis*," quotes Miss Hamilton from a local guide book, "*a toujours été séjour préfére des gens amis du calme et du bien-être*," and her chapters on the history of the town from the days of the Roman Empire through Merovingian and Calrovingian times to those of Henry of Navarre, and onward to the Revolution, bear out its claim to have been long addicted by preference to the ways of quietness and moderation. The story of the doings of the Germans in Senlis in the week during which they occupied it before the Battle of the Marne forced von Kluck to begin his retreat, has been compiled from the testimony of those who endured them; it does not lose in effect from the fact that it is told with restraint. Miss Hamilton inclines to the theory that it was the first intention of the invaders to destroy the city entirely, and that it was the pleading of the Curé of Senlis which induced the German officer in command to modify the order so that only one quarter was burnt. It was not in the Curé's power to save the mayor or the six hostages selected at random from among

the inhabitants, who were shot the same night, or the wretched men, women, and children driven in front of the German troops so that they fell by the bullets of their own countrymen. Here is Miss Hamilton's verdict on these episodes:—

"For lack of sense of individual responsibility, the conscience of the system—the nature, the society—is always inferior to the conscience of the decent individual; thus the measure by which German ruthlessness has excelled the ruthlessness of other nations, is the measure of Germany's superiority in organisation of human material, of her power of converting her nationals into irresponsible machines . . . . nor is that temptation to sink the individual conscience in the conscience of the crowd one that confronts the German alone, though, so far, he most thoroughly has yielded to it."

The tide of war soon rolled away from Senlis, which represented almost the "high-water mark" of the German advance. Something of what their departure and the re-entry of their own troops meant to the citizens may be realised from the words of one of them: "*La vie renaît, l'air est respirable, qu'ils sont gentils, nos soldats!*"

The Englishwoman has, this month, a very valuable article on the Overworked Woman, pointing out the folly of "settling everything to do with women on a basis prepared by men to suit their own interests and their personal conceptions of the suitable." The writer maintains that women munition workers are being worn out, in spite of the warnings given by the Health of Munition Workers' Committee and the Report on the Investigation of Fatigue issued by the Home Office. These show not only the disastrous results upon the workers' health of too long hours, but also their bad economy from the point of view of obtaining the maximum output from each worker. In "Problems of the Day" the question of the girl office-workers' clothes is discussed, and some very sensible suggestions made for bringing neat, serviceable garments within her reach. Those who blame the girl clerk for the unsuitability of her attire are often quite ignorant of the difficulties she has to meet.

Other articles deal with War Pensions, Inspection in a Shell Factory, The Partitions of Poland, and The Swede as a Diplomatist.

The Millicent Fawcett Units.

As all the members of the Millicent Fawcett Units are home from Russia (except Dr. Daisy Stepney, Sister Crowe, and Sister Ball, who are working under different bodies in Russia), the National Union Executive Committee gave a tea party at Headquarters, on October 5th, to welcome them back, and to hear something of their experiences. Mrs. Fawcett, assisted by the Hon. Officers of the Units Committee, Lady Selborne, Miss Sterling, Miss Deneke, Mrs. Russell, received the visitors, including Dr. Mabel May, Dr. Alice Benham, Dr. Muriel Kerr, and Sisters Bambridge, Cordner, Egerton, Morris, Percival, Roberts, and Wright. Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Clough, Miss O'Malley, Miss Atkinson, and Miss Eustace were present from the Executive, also Mrs. Auerbach with Mr. Auerbach, and a number of prominent subscribers to the work of the Units, including the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Flinders Petrie, Mrs. George Cadbury, Miss Powell, and Miss Holland.

Letters of regret were received from Dr. King Atkinson, and Dr. Helena Hall, and from Sisters Macdowell, Denholme (Glasgow), Joyce (Shrewsbury), Smith (Munitions Factory, Co. Durham), Wilson (Military Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent), Fordyce (Liverpool), Clifton (Sheffield), and also from Miss Knight, engaged on temporary war work in London, Mrs. Elborough, now an extra-mural munitions welfare worker in Barrow, and Miss Moberley, who has only recently started Y.W.C.A. welfare work in France. Miss Roberta Macadams, the recently elected M.P. for Alberta, Canada, was unfortunately prevented from coming to the party, but the Executive Committee hope they may soon have the pleasure of meeting her and of congratulating her on her election.

After tea, Mrs. Fawcett asked Dr. May to describe the Units' experiences during the Russian Army's retreat through Galicia. As an introduction, Dr. May referred to the early days of the Revolution, and explained in what varied ways the different parts of the country had been effected. In the villages no sudden change took place apart from the holding of public meetings, but at the front the Soldiers' Committees attempted to take over the control of the war machinery, and the most obvious result was the sudden relaxation of discipline. Dr. May described the conduct of a Red Cross orderly, who had always behaved in an exemplary manner, but who expressed his revolutionary feelings by insisting on leaving for his dinner in the middle of an operation.

The story of the last few days at Podgaitza, the order "No more operations" given by Surgeon Scott, which showed that the moment for retreat had come, and the history of the rescue by the British Armoured Cars has already been described in The Common Cause of September 21st. Until the very last minute the hospital did heavy and important work, and its record, 1,100 patients in twenty-four hours with a staff of two doctors and six or eight nurses, is a very fine one. Twelve hours after the hospital was evacuated, it was set on fire by the Russians, who made little attempt to stem the enemy's advance. Zaleschiki had a similar experience.

After Dr. May had finished, Sister Percival gave a simple and interesting account of her work among the women and children in the little village of Stara Chelnoe, on the Volga. Their ignorance was appalling; they had no knowledge of the elementary rules of cleanliness, and the children were filthy and verminous. A terrible scourge of blindness attacked almost every family, and frequently half the members of a family were totally blind. Quarantine was, of course, unknown, and the public baths, to which everyone went once a week, were a very hotbed of infection. In face of every difficulty, Sister Percival noticed that the women had confidence in the English nurses, and tried to practice their strange ways, and she felt confident that the traditions of English cleanliness would long influence the lives of these simple villagers.

It was altogether a very pleasant and interesting afternoon, and the National Union Executive Committee were glad to have this opportunity of welcoming home the members of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units and of thanking them again for the courageous and willing spirit with which they undertook their work in Russia.

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London Units.

Our readers will remember that after some eight months' work at Reni Dr. Inglis's Unit rejoined the Serbian Division at the end of August. News is daily expected as to its movements. Meanwhile, the following *personnel* of the London Units have arrived in England from Russia, having completed the term for which they engaged to work:—Dr. Chesney, Miss Rendel, Matron Fox, Sisters Atkinson, Wilcox, and Oliver, Miss Little, Miss Vera Holme, and Miss E. F. Robinson.

After the retreat last December the transport workers were stationed at Odessa, where they did some very useful work. They were lodged on the ground floor of the Greek school, where they were given quarters by the Russian Red Cross. Dr. Chesney had a small hospital in the upper part of the building, and some refugees were housed on the first storey. For some weeks they were kept busy repairing the cars, which had been badly damaged during the retreat, and needed a thorough overhauling.

The transport workers stayed at the school-house until Easter, when it was turned into a hospital for typhus, and fresh quarters were found for them in a delightful little house overlooking the sea. By this time Dr. Chesney had gone to the Front. Part of their work here was training twenty-seven Serbian orderlies to drive lorries and ambulances. They were also kept busy taking Serbs from the General Hospital backwards and forwards for electric massage treatment, which they could not otherwise have obtained, and in work for the Serbian Headquarters, driving officers engaged on staff business. This was a great help to the General Staff, as they were very short of cars. A car was also lent to the Russian Red Cross.

Miss Robinson speaks with enthusiasm of the steadiness of their Serbian orderlies, who were very little affected by the Revolution, and worked remarkably well.

The transport workers' quarters were also used as a clearing-station for people coming out from England to join the Unit, or coming to Odessa on business from Reni, and as many as thirty people had sometimes to be accommodated in three small rooms; the little place was often full to overflowing.

Donations.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to September 27th, 1917	243,256	11	2
Further donations received to October 2nd, 1917:—			
F. R. Burnett, Esq.	2	2	0
Miss Jean L. Malcolm, India ...	1	0	0
"A Friend"	1	0	0
C. H. W.		10	0
Miss Octavia Paterson	1	1	0
Miss Blakeley		5	0
Mrs. F. E. Hudson...	1	0	0
*Miss Isabella K. Proudfoot ...	1	1	0
*Per Miss A. Williamson, 6th instal. for "September" bed (Royaumont), completing £50 for year: £5, Lady Cowan; £2 2s. each: Mrs. St. Clair Cunningham, Mrs. Underhill, Lady Mackie; £2 each: Mr. and Mrs. W. Cunningham, Miss Henderson; £1 1s. each: Mrs. A. I. Hislop, Mrs. MacIntyre, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Reid, Miss D. Longueuil, Miss Henderson, Mr. C. F. Robertson; £1 each: Mrs. Lyell, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. MacMillan, Mrs. McK. Brown, Mrs. Hogarth, Mrs. Halley, Mrs. Muir, Mrs. M. H. Paterson, Mrs. I. Currie, Mrs. Maclagan, Mr. Allison, Mrs. Watherston, Miss Williamson; 10s. each: Miss Belfrage, Miss L. Swan, Mr. Bishop, Mrs. Whyte Smith, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Johnston, Miss Wallace, Mrs. Wright, Misses Cross, Mrs. Rogers; 5s. each: Miss Thomson, Mrs. Laird, Mrs. Grier, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. Middleton, Mrs. G. Crawford; Household Savings, 10, Wilton Road, Edinburgh, Mrs. Sinclair, Miss Grentfield, Rev. I. MacIntyre, Mrs. Davidson, Miss Hutchison, Misses Storrar, Miss Sheila Mackenzie, Miss Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. Gerrard, Misses Hope, Miss Robertson, Mrs. Lawson, Mr. Thomson, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Spencer, Anonymous, and sums under 5s., £3 11s.... ...	25	0	0
*Miss Irene Hickman, *per Dr. Mary Phillips (for Sanatorium work among Serbian Students)	10	6	
Gold and Silver Collection, Edinburgh and Glasgow: Received in Edinburgh, per Mrs. R. C. H. Salvesen, £585 2s. 5d.; Received in Glasgow, per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas. Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Committee, £614 17s. 7d.... ... ... (Detailed Glasgow subscriptions acknowledged under Glasgow and West of Scotland list.)	1,200	0	0
Miss E. R. Brownlee	3	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees Messrs. Dick, Kerr & Co. (£5 1s.), *Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 8s. 9d.)	7	9	9
Anonymous	25	0	0
*Per Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treas. London Units, for further 6 months of the London Ward, Royaumont ...	825	0	0
*Domestic Staff of St. Mary's School, Melrose		10	0
*Per Miss E. W. R. Alison, Hon. Treas. Perth W.S.S.: *Staff of Kinnoull School ...		11	2
*Per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas. Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Com. for S.W.H.: Amount collected by Glasgow and West of Scotland Joint Com. from Gold and Silver Sale, valued by R. Stewart, Esq. (£585 1s. 7d.), per Mrs. F. J. Stephen (£15), per Miss Greenlees (£8 18s. 6d.), per Mrs. W. Mearns Gow (£11 15s.), per Mrs. Mitchell (£6 3s. 6d.), per Miss Montgomerie (£4 10s. 6d.), per Mrs. Thomson (£1 15s.), per Miss Murray Dunlop, Miss Drew (10s.) and Newton Stewart (12s. 6d.), Mrs. W. Stevenson, per Miss Morrison (10s.), per Miss Thornton (4s.), Mrs. Fleming (5s.), Lady Macalister (2s.). (£614 17s. 7d., acknowledged under Gold and Silver Collection along with collections received in Edinburgh.)			
Flag Days in Kilwinning, per G. Seymour, Esq. (£26 0s. 5d.); Stewarton, per Mrs. Arthur (£50); Bellshill, per Mrs. Findlay (£37 17s. 11d.); New Cumnock Parish, per Mrs. Hyslop (£24 15s.); Girvan, per J. Brewster, Esq. (£24 4s. 7d.); Rosneath and Clynder, per Miss Thom (£20); Tobermory and Glengorm, per Miss Mackinnon (£10 2s. 6d.); New Stevenston and Holytown, per Mrs. Alexander (£17 17s. 1d.); Wigtown, per Mrs. Shaw (£8 12s.); Cleland, per W. Loudon, Esq. (£8 2s. 6d.); Buittle Parish, per Miss Maxwell (£5 3s. 6d.); Darvel, per George Young, Esq. (£6 2s. 9d.); Whiting Bay, per Mrs. McGechan (£6); Tinwald Parish, per Mrs. Maxwell (£4 1s. 6d.); Brodick, per W. D. Congalton, Esq. (£3 5s.)—(£312 4s. 9d.)			
Biggar Farmers' Club Gift Sale, per Miss Livingstone and Miss Dunlop (£159 7s. 6d.) (previously acknowledged); *Robert Clark, Esq., Messrs. Clark & Service (£100); *Mrs. Glen, for upkeep of "Glencoe" bed (£50); *J. Hamilton Barrett, Esq. (£25); Concert, Flag Day, and Bowling Tournament at Kinlochleven, per Miss Beveridge, to name "Kinlochleven" bed (£25); Collection at Hampden Park Football Ground (£16 17s. 3d.); *Per Miss Duff, Staff and Pupils of Lenzie Academy, for upkeep of "Lenzie" bed (£12); *Collected at Shandon Hydro, per Miss Gregory (£11 8s. 6d.); Flower Sales at Rouken Glen, per Mrs. Warneuke (£11 0s. 5½d.); *Miss Beckett (£10 10s.); Collection at Cathkin Park Football Ground (£10 8s. 9d.); *In Memory of Matthew and Struthers Findlay, per James Findlay, Esq. (£10); *Drumpellier Golf Club, per C. W. Walker, Esq. (£10); Bearsden Rose Day, per Mrs. Thomson (£10); Flower Sales at Busby Station, per Miss Duff (£9 6s. 7d.); *Mrs. Farquhar (£5 5s.); *Miss Stevens (£5); Flower Stations at Clarkston Station, per Miss Sinclair (£4 4s. 5½d.); *Miss Anna R. Findlay (£2); *Mrs. Anderson, Collecting Box at Crianlarich Station (£1 2s. 10d.); *Miss Grimstone (£1), *Mrs. Aikman (£1), *Miss Mary Brown (£1), *E. A. (£1), *James M. Taylor, Esq. (£1), Miss Gordon (5s.).			
*Workmen's Scheme: *Employees Messrs. Hunter, Barr & Co. (£12 12s.); *Employees Messrs. Bilsland Ltd. (£10); *Employees Messrs. Wm. Simons & Co. Ltd. (£9 13s. 3d.); *Employees Messrs. Campbell & Calderwood (£5); Messrs. J. & D. Hamilton (£5); *Employees Messrs. P. & W. McLellan Ltd. (£3 4s. 10d.); *Employees Messrs. Wm. Beattie (£3 2s. 1d.); *Employees J. & T. Boyd (£3); *Head Office Staff, Messrs. Nobel's Explosives Co. Ltd., for the Serbians (£2 18s.); *Employees Messrs. Hay, Nisbet & Co. Ltd. (£2 15s.); *Employees Messrs. Wm. Martin, Sons & Co. (£2 2s.); Workers' contributions: The Kelvinside Hemming Factory (Calico Printers' Assoc. Ltd.), per Miss Wilkie (£2); *Employees Messrs. Cassel Cyanide Co. Ltd. (£2); *Workers Messrs. Cleland, Dykes & Co., per Miss Orr (£1 14s. 1d.); *Employees Messrs. Alexander Jack & Co. (12s. 6d.). (Total, £1,486 12s. 5d., less £159 7s. 6d. already acknowledged in Common Cause list, per Miss Livingstone, and less £614 17s. 7d., Gold and Silver collections already acknowledged along with Edinburgh collection — £712 7s. 4d.)			
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: 16th to 24th Penny a Week Collection for Serbian Refugees in Corsica, including 15s. 3d. collected from Munition Girls, per Miss Anderson (£70 9s. 6d.); Drawing Room Meeting, Provost & Mrs. McMillan's, addressed by Dr. Mary Phillips (£28 16s. 9d.), and Temperance Institute Meeting (£10 6s.), less £7 4s. 2d. expenses (£31 18s. 7d.); Proceeds of Bazaar held in Backgreen, by Emily Russell and Cissy Lancaster (£1 6s. 7d.); *Seedhill Finishing Co., per Rd. Benson, Esq. (£1); *Employees East End Co-op. Soc., Greenock, per James Liddell, Esq. (£2); *Firm and Employees of Messrs. Wm. Hamilton, 9th to 17th donations for "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" bed, per Alex. M. Kennedy, Esq. (£20 7s. 1d.); Repayment of Entertainment Tax, Charity Matinée in Central Picture House, per R. Crawford, Esq. (£2 7s. 9d.)	129	9	5
*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas. Edinburgh N.U.W.S.S.: Miss Frances Simson (£5), *Employees Messrs. Thomson & Porteous (£3 15s., further £3 12s.); *Employees Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott & Co. (£1 17s. 9d., further £3 10s. 2d.); *Women Clerks, Acct.'s Dept., G.P.O. (£2 12s.); *Employees Messrs. McVitie & Price (£14); *Nat. Union Railwaymen, Carlisle Br. No. 6 (16s. 6d.); *Miss K. M. Loudon, for "Charles Loudon" bed, Royaumont (£25); Proceeds of Bathgate Flag Day (£20 2s. 9d.); *Employees Messrs. Munro & Co. (£1 14s. 6d.); Collection Box at 40, Shandwick Place (11s. 8d.)	82	12	4
	£246,276	0	9

* Denotes further donations.

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"September" (Royaumont, further) ...	Per Miss A. Williamson, 37, Lygon Road, Edinburgh.
"Glencoe" (Royaumont, further one year)	Mrs. Glen, per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas. Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Com., 202, Hope Street.
"Kinlochleven" (6 months)	Per Miss Beveridge, proceeds of Concert, Flag Day, and Bowling Tournament, per Miss Morrison.
"Lenzie" (Royaumont, further) ...	Per Miss Duff, Staff and Pupils of Lenzie Academy, per Miss Morrison.
"Glen Shipbuilding Yard" (New Unit, further)	Firm and Employees of Messrs. Wm. Hamilton, Port-Glasgow, per Miss Etta Shankland.
"Charles Loudon" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Miss K. M. Loudon, per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas. Edinburgh N.U.W.S.S., 40, Shandwick Place.
*London Ward Beds (Royaumont, further 6 months)...	Per Hon. Mrs. Graves, Joint Hon. Treas. London Committee S.W.H., 66, Victoria Street, Westminster.

* List of Beds will be published next week.

Gifts for Royaumont.—Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, has received a letter saying that a donation of fifty shirts and fifty pairs of socks are now ready and being sent to the patients at the Abbaye de Royaumont.

This generous donation will be very much appreciated by the men, and is sent by an anonymous donor, "Villa Said."

Erratum Note.—In list of donations to September 3rd, Flag Day in Lochranza, per Glasgow Joint Committee, should read Flag Day at Lochranza, Caticol, and Pirnmill, per Miss Edith Kerr, £9 11s. 6d.

Women's National Service.

In his speech at Nottingham last Tuesday, on the subject of his scheme for National Service and Army Recruiting, Sir Auckland Geddes made a special appeal to women.

"The Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps," he said, "is in need of recruits—women of all sorts are wanted, and we are not getting enough. We require cooks, waitresses, clerks, general service women for hospitals, motor drivers, driver mechanics, women with technical experience to join the Flying Corps—women of all sorts.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps are now demanding 12,000 recruits a month, instead of the 10,000 originally asked for. Already over 10,900 applications have been received, and women are rapidly taking over the task of feeding the Army, in addition to a great deal of clerical work.

Large numbers of women are also wanted at once to work in the aircraft repairing depôts of the Royal Flying Corps, both at home and abroad. These include: Fitters, instrument repairers, acetylene welders, electricians, draughtswomen, painters, tracers, storekeepers (with knowledge of engine parts and tools), good needlewomen for making aeroplane wings, tinsmiths, coppersmiths, and tender drivers. All applications should be made to the Labour Exchanges.

More recruits are also wanted for the Women's Land Army, the entire organisation of which is in the hands of the Women's Branch of the Board of Agriculture. The work of recruiting is carried on through the Women's War Agricultural Committees in each county, in close consultation with the employment exchanges of the Ministry of Labour.

An arrangement has now been made by the Women's Branch of the Board of Agriculture, in consultation with the Timber Supply Department of the Board of Trade and the Forage Committees of the War Office, by which all women required for the needs of those Departments will be recruited jointly, be interchangeable, and be enrolled as members of the Women's Land Army. An appeal for the women urgently required for farm work will be issued shortly.

The agricultural competitions lately held in various parts of the country show the keenness and efficiency of women workers on the land, who are being asked for more and more by farmers. At Edgbaston last week over 200 women from the Midland Counties entered for a variety of tests in order to obtain certificates of efficiency. The tests were set by practical farmers, and included ploughing by horse and tractor, drilling, hoeing, milking by hand and machine, threshing, mowing, thatching, root-pulling, and other branches of farm labour. The competitors, who were from all classes, showed considerable skill though owing to heavy rain ploughing was carried on under very trying conditions.

At Oakham a number of competitions were held under the auspices of the Women's Legion, some of the competitors coming from as far afield as Scotland and the South Coast. The farmers watching seemed much impressed, and were particularly interested in the exhibit of mechanical tractors that can be managed by women.

Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Committee for the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service.

Proceeds of Drawing-room Meeting held at Fernhill, Rutherglen. Result, £93. Of this sum, £50 is from Mr. and Mrs. Kinghorn, The Anchorage, Burnside, for the upkeep of the "Yvonne Bed," in the Abbaye de Royaumont for another year. The remaining £43 goes towards the upkeep of the "Burnside" and "Rutherglen" Beds.

Forthcoming Meetings.

OCTOBER 17.
Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street. 3—5 p.m.
SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.
OCTOBER 12.
Mrs. Chilver's "AT HOME"—Gate House, Midhurst—Speaker: Miss May Curwen 2.30 p.m.
OCTOBER 15.
The Farringtons, Chislehurst—SCHOOL MEETING—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 2.30 p.m.
OCTOBER 19.
Prior's Field, Godalming—SCHOOL MEETING. 7.30 p.m.
OCTOBER 25.
Given-Wilson Institute Women's Club—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 3 p.m.

A Jumble Sale will shortly be held by the Ascot Society for the incidental expenses involved by their various undertakings, which include the upkeep of three "Ascot" beds, Scottish Women's Hospitals. Any help will be gratefully received by Miss Violet Hanbury, Hon. Sec., Holmwood Lodge, Ascot.

The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves is arranging a sale of lavender and plain garments at her house, 20, Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, early in December. The proceeds will go to support the work of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. She will be most grateful to any friends who will help her by sending useful articles for the sale or by making it known among those likely to be interested.

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40	3 0	8 6	16 0

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POSITIONS VACANT.

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